



Good News from Parks and Recreation December 2012

Parks and Recreation website: <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/index.cfm>

Trail and Bikeway Plan - http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trail_bikeway_master_plan.cfm

Parks and Recreation Master Plan - http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/master_plan.cfm

DNR 10/25 Parks and Trails Legacy Plan - <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/funds/parks-trails-fund/plan>

Sign up for all **Parks and Recreation press releases** and other City announcements at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/> - click the yellow button on the left that says "Subscribe via E-mail".

Like us on Facebook: see the blue Facebook icon on our website:
<http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/> or find us on Facebook at DuluthParksMN

Our Parks office will be closed on the following dates:

Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Tuesday, January 1 – New Year's Day

Monday, January 21 – Martin Luther King Day

Parks Fund Neighborhood Grants Announced

Mayor Don Ness announced today the organizations selected to receive the Fall Parks Fund Neighborhood Grants, pending City Council approval. The City made \$26,500 available as part of the Parks Fund to support projects and initiatives which would enhance and improve city parks and recreation.

The Neighborhood Grant program is designed to provide direct support for community groups and organizations to add value in our City parks. The City is partnering with the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation which accepted and processed the applications. Proposals were reviewed by a committee with recommendations for funding presented to the Parks Commission and then for final approval from the City Council.

Parks Fund Neighborhood Grant Projects must:

- Take place entirely or primarily on existing recognized units of Duluth's parks, recreation, and trails system;
- Support the mission of Duluth's Parks and Recreation Division to fulfill the essential recreational, educational, cultural, and environmental needs that create a dynamic community; and
- Encourage both financial and volunteer efforts.

Priority was given to projects that support one or more of the following key elements of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

- Improve the quality of existing parks (especially neighborhood parks),
- Focus on connecting the community through trails and bikeways,
- Have fewer, but higher quality recreation buildings,
- Enhance stewardship of natural resources,
- Expand partnerships with schools for community recreation and gathering, and increase use and recognition of volunteers and volunteer groups.

Grant Recipients: TOTAL \$26,276

1. Cyclists of Gitchee Gumme Shores: Mountain Bike Trail System - Sustainability Upgrades \$5,000
2. Gary-Morgan Park Hockey Association: Player Boxes Rebuild & Rink Repair \$5,000
3. Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, Inc: Interpretive Signage for Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve \$5,000
4. Park Point Community Club: Lafayette Summer Youth Program \$3,200
5. Woodland Amateur Hockey Association: Public Skating Rink Resurface \$5,000
6. YMCA of Duluth Woodland Community Center: Garden and Kitchen Improvements \$3,076

Public discusses Chester Creek options

The public was invited to a meeting to discuss options to repair, restore and enhance Chester Creek within Chester Bowl. The meeting was held on Tuesday, December 11th from 7:00-8:30 PM at the Duluth Police Department Conference Room located at 2030 North Arlington Avenue. People needing more information should contact Chris Kleist, City of Duluth, ckleist@duluthmn.gov or 218-355-0598. Formal comments are preferred via email or in writing and can be submitted to Chris Kleist. We respectfully requested all comments by December 28, 2102. Mail comments to: Chris Kleist, City of Duluth, 520 Garfield Avenue, Duluth, MN 55802.

Volunteer News

Invasive Species Management Advisory Committee

The City of Duluth is looking to pull together a volunteer community advisory committee to assist in the development and implementation of an Invasive Species Management Plan. The primary role of the advisory committee will be to develop work groups that will look at the important aspects of a complete plan, including:

- * Restoration and re-planting
- * Eradication and removal
- * Disposal standards
- * Public policy
- * Volunteer events
- * Homeowner/community education
- * Tracking and mapping

If you are interested in volunteering with this committee on any level, please complete this [survey](#). If the link does not work, please copy and paste this into your web browser: <http://goo.gl/b8jfP>.

Recreation and Special Events

Annual Holiday Banquet

The annual HOLIDAY BANQUET AND BENTLEYVILLE TOUR OF LIGHTS was held on Tuesday, December 11, at the DECC. After a fresh snowfall, 220 senior citizens made their way to the Lake Superior Ballroom for a fabulous evening of celebrating. Santa Claus was on hand, along with emcees Dan Hanger and Diane Alexander from FOX TV, who greeted attendees before a delicious turkey dinner was served. Following dinner, the 2012 edition of the Bentleyville DVD was presented, produced exclusively for the banquet by photographer Dennis O'Hara. (Video can be viewed online at www.northernimages.com, but is not available for sale.) Nathan Bentley also took the stage, giving an update on additions made to the display this year, while also answering questions from the audience. Over 75 prizes were awarded from multiple sponsors and senior clubs before ending the evening on a "high note" to entertainment and a sing along with multi-talented musical comic Glen Everhart. The City of Duluth has been proudly offering this holiday tradition to senior citizens for 26 years and looks forward to many more to come!

Parks and Recreation FREE - DECC Skating Party on Sunday, December 30th

It is time to get those ice skates sharpened and head down to the DECC on Sunday, December 30th for the annual Parks and Recreation skating party. The skating party will be held in the DECC Arena from 3:00-5:00 PM. This is a great event for families. Skaters can enjoy cookies and music provided by Shelly's Mobile Music Machine. There will be free door prizes for the kids. DECC concessions will also be open during this time period. All skating parties are free and open to all ages. Kids under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Participants need to bring their own skates.

The remaining skating party dates are:

- **Sunday, January 27th 3:00-5:00 PM AMSOIL Arena "Skate with the Bulldogs"**
- **Sunday, February 24th 3:00-5:00 PM AMSOIL Arena**

Bentleyville Tour of Lights at Bayfront Festival Park

Everyone will experience the magic of over 3 million lights illuminating Bayfront Festival Park located on the shores of Lake Superior during the Bentleyville Tour of Lights. The largest holiday light show in the Midwest comes to life every evening from Saturday, November 17th-Wednesday, December 26th. Bentleyville will be open from 5:00-10:00 PM Friday and Saturday and 5:00-9:00 PM Sunday-Thursday. Admission is free.

Highlighting the 2012 Bentleyville Tour of Lights are new displays such as Thomas the Train and many others which will delight all who come to the Bentleyville. The tallest Christmas tree in the Midwest will be loaded with over 60,000 sparkling LED lights - the 120 ft giant tree will be shining brightly in the crisp evening sky. Synchronized to music, this LED trimmed Christmas tree will dance with images to holiday tunes throughout the season.

Visitors will also be greeted by the spectacular Bentleyville castle which stands 24 feet high and 78 feet long and the Cookie House where visitors are welcome to complimentary hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies as they stroll through the park. A dazzling lighted tunnel leads you to Santa, 15 fire pits for roasting marshmallows, and the Polar Popcorn Hut. Everyone will be amazed at the local displays of the Aerial Lift Bridge, Tall Ships, a replicate of a thousand foot ore boat, and Enger Tower.

Bentleyville Tour of Lights is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization. The community mission of this event is to raise non-perishable food items and new unwrapped toys for families in need. Bentleyville Tour of Lights is an official drop off site for the Salvation Army. Please make a donation. For more Bentleyville Tour of Lights information: www.bentleyvilleusa.org

Parks and Recreation Heritage Skating

The Parks and Recreation sponsored skating sessions will be held from 6:30-8:00 PM every week until the end of May. The Heritage Sports Center is located at 120 South 30th Avenue West. These sessions are **free** and open to the public for pleasure skating. Please bring your own skates.

Play Gym at Duluth Heights

Unstructured, free, rain or shine playtime for preschoolers. Wednesdays 9 am to 12 noon at the Duluth Heights Community Recreation Center, 33 Mulberry St. For more information, call 730-4322.

“Warmer by the Lake” on Wednesday, December 26, 2012 - closing day of Bentleyville Tour of Lights

Bayfront Festival Park will be a great place to be in Duluth on Wednesday, December 26th at the annual "Warmer by the Lake" celebration brought to you by City of Duluth Parks and Recreation. “Warmer by the Lake” will mark the last day to enjoy the Bentleyville Tour of Lights, so pack up the kids, grab your skates, and head on down to Bayfront for a fun-filled afternoon of winter activities and a spectacular fireworks display closing Bentleyville 2012.

There will be ice skating, marshmallow roasting, and live entertainment. Everyone will enjoy free hot chocolate and cookies as you warm up by the fire. Admission and parking are free.

- Warmer by the Lake starts at 2:00 PM
- Bentleyville Tour of Lights opens at 5:00 PM
- Spectacular Fireworks Display at 6:30 PM
- All **FREE!**

Flood Restoration Efforts

Duluth’s Stream Restoration Effort Moves Forward

The City of Duluth’s trout streams suffered significant, wide-spread damage during the June 2012 flooding disaster. Since the flood, there has been a tremendous outpouring of support from Duluth’s citizens assisting City and State Agency staff in documenting damage and seeking solutions.

The City is currently leading a comprehensive effort to assess, prioritize, and seek funding for debris removal and bank stabilization on each trout stream. Professional Water Resources Engineers are evaluating each of the streams and estimating the extent of the damage. Grant funding from a variety of sources is being pursued by the City and its partners. In the coming months, the City of Duluth and other Agencies will be seeking input and support from the public. All members of the public are encouraged to participate.

Restoring the streams will be a long and multi-step process. The City of Duluth is committed to working with all interested parties and stakeholders to find the best solution for each stretch of stream.